

reaching out to the gangs in Wichita. They have even reached out to those trapped by prostitution, by drugs, and by alcohol through their "Christ in the Streets" program.

Joe has exchanged pulpits with black congregations in our community, allowing them to come into Valley Center Assembly of God, while he goes to other community churches. Some would say that this is innovative for a church to reach outside its walls. Joe would simply say it is changing the hearts and minds of America one soul at a time.

Welcome to the House, Pastor Voss.

CONGRESS SHOULD STAY IN SESSION AND WORK

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, a moment ago we put our right hands over our hearts and pledged allegiance to our flag and the Nation for which it stands. I would like to challenge every Member of this House today to take another pledge, a pledge that we will not go home in February for a month, a pledge we will not take a paid vacation as Members of Congress, while this Nation is on the brink of defaulting on its good faith and credit for the first time in two centuries.

Mr. Speaker, I think every Member of Congress tomorrow who would vote to recess, when we are on this brink, are playing Russian roulette with the American economy and average working people's lives whose mortgage rates will go up and veterans who will not receive their paychecks and the widows of veterans who will not receive their pensions.

Anybody who votes to go on recess tomorrow should volunteer not only to give up his or her paycheck for the month of February. They should volunteer to explain to 44 million senior citizens why on March 1 they may not get their Social Security checks and Medicare recipients will not get their checks. We should stay here and work.

PROTECT CALIFORNIA'S FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INDUSTRY

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the rumor going around the California agricultural community is that USDA Secretary Dan Glickman is out to ruin California's multibillion-dollar-a-year fruit and vegetable industry.

Why would Secretary Glickman want to destroy California's Agricultural industry? Only he knows.

Bill Clinton will get the blame—conventional wisdom says this is a no brainer—costing Clinton the November election.

An independent study by University of California, Riverside, Boston University, Cornell University, and Oregon

State University states that USDA has not used good science.

Allowing pest ridden Mexican avocados into the United States is a recipe for disaster. They will bring in fruit flies, stem borers and seed weevils. The invasion of these pests will destroy California's crops for generations to come.

Secretary Glickman, use common sense. Don't allow pest ridden Mexican avocados into our country. It is bad policy, based on bad science.

LOAN GUARANTEES

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, let us see if this makes any sense. Uncle Sam borrows money from Japan and Germany and then gives that borrowed money to Russia. Russia then sells nuclear technology, fighter jets, tanks, and submarines to Iran and China. Military experts say that Iran threatens the gulf and that China, as we speak, threatens to nuke Taiwan.

If that is not enough to float your boat, the White House wants to guarantee part of a \$9 billion loan, another one to Russia, \$9 billion.

Mr. Speaker, did anyone ever stop to think that America with these policies just may be aiding and abetting our enemies?

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

If we can guarantee any loans for anybody, it should be for the people in the United States of America.

CASTRO'S THREATS AGAINST DISSIDENTS' YOUNG CHILDREN

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, since the time of the visits of two of our colleagues to Cuba a few weeks ago, dissidents and independent journalists there are facing increased repression. Dissident leaders Miriam Garcia, Mercedes Parada Antunes, Leonel Morejon Almagro, Pedro Brito Hernandez, and many others, have reported being the victims of increasing repression. But perhaps the most spine-chilling example of Castro's new wave of brutality is the way in which Vicky Ruiz, a member of the dissident umbrella group Concilio Cubano, is being threatened.

State security has not only repeatedly threatened Vicky Ruiz's physical safety, but Castro agents have also told her that, if she does not stop her human rights advocacy, her young children, a 9-year-old girl and a 6-year-old boy, will be physically assaulted, as will be her 13-year-old nephew, who also lives with her in the same house.

I, Mr. Speaker, have personally heard her plea for help sent by telephone. All human rights groups, international organizations, our government, and all

governments have a duty to immediately condemn these acts of cowardly brutality with all vehemence, and to intercede on behalf of Vicky Ruiz and her young family.

STOP JEOPARDIZING AMERICA'S CREDIT

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, as so many Texans gathered yesterday in Austin to honor Senator Ralph Yarborough, I was reminded of his urging that we ought to put the jam on the lower shelf so the little people can reach it. How appropriate those words are this morning.

Speaker GINGRICH wants to put all the jam up there on the top shelf so that those who are sitting comfortably on the top ladder can reach up there and get the tax breaks and the crown jewels. Those that are down there on the bottom rung, working families, they reach into the cupboard and they find it bare. All they get is a notice for raised taxes under this Republican economic plan.

Mr. Speaker, meanwhile the Speaker is talking about getting this country into a jam of a far different type: Defaulting on the full faith and credit of the United States of America, the kind of idea we would have only heard on the crackpot circuit a year ago. Well, it is time to stop jeopardizing with these political shenanigans the future of working families across America.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND BIG GOVERNMENT

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, last week President Clinton said this was the end of the era of big government. And this week, the President says that he established a record of remarkable consistency.

Mr. Speaker, let's review the facts. President Clinton is responsible for the largest tax increase in American history. He tried to take over one-seventh of the U.S. economy by socializing the Nation's health care system. Last year, the President submitted four budget plans, none of which balanced, all of which had \$200 billion deficits as far as the eye could see. And only until very recently has the President submitted a balanced budget, but even that puts off the tough choices for future politicians and spends \$326 billion more on failed Washington programs.

If this is the end of big government, I must be in political fantasyland.

Mr. Speaker, let's cut through the double-speak see that, in reality, Bill Clinton has become big government's little buddy.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD: